

Temple Terrace plan scaled back

The council voted to go from a 38-acre plan to one of 20 acres, including a new City Hall, to be done in phases over six years.

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TEMPLE TERRACE - Plans to build a new City Hall and redevelop an area along busy N 56th Street remained alive, at least for now, after a Temple Terrace City Council decision Tuesday night.

On Aug. 2, Temple Terrace voters refused to approve a tax hike to pay for a redevelopment plan for 38 acres along 56th Street.

The council voted Tuesday to try again, with a revised, scaled-down, 20-acre project on an area that runs from Bullard Parkway south to Riverhills Drive. This plan would be carried out in two phases over six years.

Mayor Joe Affronti declined to say whether residents would have to pay higher taxes for this new version of the redevelopment. Tuesday's vote was merely about what should be included in the plan. The council cast a series of votes for various options.

Next the city will send this wish list to the same developer who was initially lined up to do the larger plan, Unicorp National Developments of Orlando. The company has 30 days to respond.

If Unicorp agrees to take on the new, smaller plan, the company will design the project using the city's guidelines.

Council members voted for the new City Hall to be included in Phase II of the redevelopment project, which means the plan can be reviewed in three years, before construction begins, and changed. Council member Linda Shattles suggested the city do a feasibility study before moving ahead with final plans on a new City Hall.

Council members also were divided on whether to include a community arts center in the redevelopment area. They voted to temporarily give the arts center a home at the Masque Theatre. In three to five years, the city will vote on a permanent location.

When it came to requesting that developer Unicorp craft a low-density project, council members agreed with residents that they insist this be done.

A new police station in Temple Terrace also received full support of the council.

